

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A sealant tool for use in applying a sealant, comprising:  
a handle having a substantially planar configuration; and  
an elongated applicator portion being fixed at one end to the handle and transitioning linearly outward from the handle along a longitudinal axis of the handle and the applicator portion, and further transitioning towards a single free end tip having a substantially spline radius, and wherein a thickness of the applicator portion decreases from the longitudinal axis towards lateral edges of the applicator portion, and the external surface of the applicator portion is symmetrically convex.

~~a substantially planar applicator portion having a fixed end that is joined to one end of the handle and a free tip section having a substantially spline radius that comprises a substantially non-marking material.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle and the applicator portion are manufactured using substantially ~~[[the]]~~ a same non-marking material.

3. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the handle and the applicator portion are integrated.

4. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion further decreases along the longitudinal axis towards the free end tip, the handle is manufactured using at least one of plastic, fiberglass, wood, polyurethane, and metal.

5. (Previously Presented) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the non-marking material further comprises at least one of polyurethane, polypropylene, nylon, and acetal.

6. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is maximum along the longitudinal axis with respect to the lateral edges of the applicator portion. ~~the applicator portion is manufactured employing a molded injection technique.~~

7. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the spline radius further comprises a passive shaped curvature.

8. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the spline radius further comprises an aggressive shaped curvature.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is about 0.05 inches at the edge.

11. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 9, wherein the thickness of the applicator portion is about 0.25 inches at the longitudinal axis.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a length of the handle is shorter than a length of the applicator portion. ~~and the applicator portion combined is about 9 inches.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein the sealant tool is without a cutting edge, a width of the applicator portion is determined based, in part, on a width of a joint to be sealed with the sealant tool.

15. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 14, wherein the width of the applicator portion ranges between about 0.73 inches and about 1.52 inches.

16. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a length and a width of the handle is determined for a comfortable gripping of the sealant tool.

17. (Original) The sealant tool of Claim 1, wherein a surface of the handle further comprises at least one of a smooth finish and an indented finish.

18. (Withdrawn) A method of applying a sealant to a structural joint employing a sealant tool, comprising:

selecting the sealant tool comprising a tip with an aggressive shaped curvature or a tip with passive shaped curvature, based, in part, on an esthetic aspect associated with the structural joint; and

holding the sealant tool at a predetermined angle while applying the sealant, wherein the predetermined angle determines a depth of sealant shape.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 18, wherein the predetermined angle of the sealant tool determines a percentage of contact surface.

20. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 18, wherein the percentage of contact surface controlled by the predetermined angle of the sealant tool varies between about 26% and about 38%.

21. (Currently Amended) A sealant tool for use in applying sealant, comprising:

a handle ~~means~~ having a substantially planar configuration; and

an applicator portion being fixed at one end to the handle and transitioning linearly outward from the handle towards a single free tip having a substantially spline radius, and wherein the applicator portion has a thickness that decreases from a maximum thickness along a longitudinal axis of the applicator portion towards the free distal tip, and the external surface of the applicator portion is symmetrically convex.

~~an applicator means having a substantially planar configuration and a substantially spline radius at its free distal end, wherein a proximal end of the applicator means is joined to the handle means, and wherein the applicator means employs a substantially non-marking means.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 21, wherein the free distal end tip of the applicator portion ~~means~~ further comprises at least one of a passive shaped curvature and an aggressive shaped curvature.

23. (Currently Amended) The sealant tool of Claim 21, wherein the sealant tool comprises a [[the]] non-marking means that comprises at least one of polyurethane, polypropylene, nylon, and acetal.